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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF
COCKERMOUTH



ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1954

To the Chairman and Members of the
Cockermouth Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my first Annual Report as
Medical Officer of Health to Cockermouth Rural District.

My appointment which is jointly with Cockermouth
Urban, Keswick Urban and the Cumberland County Council,
was from 1st December, 1954, and although but a recent
arrival in the district, my varying duties with these author-
ities, in particular the medical inspections and immunisations
in schools, have given me a more intimate knowledge of the
area and its people than would have been possible with any
one authority in so short a time.

My thanks are due to the Members of the Council and
to the Staff for their unfailing kindness, and in particular to
the Staff of the Health Department for their help and
encouragement in my first year with your Council.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. PATTERSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health :

J. PATTERSON, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

R. E. DUNN, C.R.S.I.

(Certificates held:

Royal Sanitary Institute as

(a) Sanitary Inspector,

(b) Inspector of Meats and other Foods)

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

G. A. W. HEPPELL, M.C., C.R.S.I., A.I.Hsg.

(Certificates held:

Royal Sanitary Institute as

(a) Sanitary Inspector,

(b) Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Institute of Housing)

Clerk and Assistant :

J. D. HINDE

STATISTICS AND DESCRIPTION OF AREA

Registrar General's estimate of resident population (mid-1954)...	19,420
Number of inhabited houses according to rate book	5,962
Rateable value at 31st December, 1954	£99.343
Product of a Penny Rate (1.4.54—31.3.55)	£385 11s. 2d.

The Cockermouth Rural District covers an area of 161,312 acres or approximately 250 square miles. 4, 700 acres of the district are covered by inland water.

The Rural Area covers the north west portion of the Lake District of Cumberland and is bounded on the north by Wigton Rural District, on the east by Penrith Rural District, on the south west by Ennerdale Rural District and touches the County boundary at Dunmail Raise to the south.

The Borough of Workington adjoins the west and the Urban Districts of Maryport, Cockermouth and Keswick are surrounded by the Rural Area.

There are 32 parishes.

Generally speaking the eastern part of the district is mountainous and forms part of the Lake District National Park. Sheep farming is predominant and catering for holidaymakers forms a large local industry.

In the west of the district lies a coal mining area, part of the West Cumberland coalfield, and the villages there are more industrial in character. Various industries near the coast also give employment to people in these villages. There is also a considerable amount of dairy farming and much good arable land forms the edge of the Solway Plain in the Crosby and Oughterside areas.

There are two short lengths of coastline between Workington and Maryport and between Maryport and the boundary of Wigton Rural District, the latter stretch being much used in summer by holidaymakers.

STATISTICS

The tables of vital statistics are set out below, showing birth rates, death rates, and rates for maternal and infantile mortality.

Crude birth and death rates are corrected by means of an Area Comparability Factor supplied each year by the Registrar General. They allow for the varying age and sex distribution of each district and enable comparisons to be made with figures for other areas.

This year the factor for births is .98 and for deaths 1.01.

The total live births were 265, a decrease on the previous year, resulting in a birth-rate of 13.6 (13.4 corrected) compared with 14.7 in 1953. Nine of these births were illegitimate.

There were 11 still births which represent a rate of 41.5 per thousand live births.

The number of deaths at all ages was 225 which gives a death rate of 11.6 (11.7 corrected) compared with 11.9 (11.4 corrected) in 1953. The reduction in the number of deaths, although slight, has been fairly evenly spread over the various causes with the exception of heart disease where there has been an increase.

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

The number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age was 6, a further reduction on 1953, and consequently the Infantile Mortality Rate compares favourably with the rates pertaining to other areas and the country as a whole.

The number of deaths from Tuberculosis was 2 (6 in 1953) and represents a death rate of .10 per 1,000 of the population. The corresponding rate in 1953 was .31, whilst the rate for England and Wales in 1954 was .18.

VITAL STATISTICS

Population of the Rural District 19,420

LIVE BIRTHS

Year		Males	Females	Total	Grand Total	Rate per 1,000 pop. uncorrected	Rate per 1,000 pop. corrected
1949	Legitimate	175	147	322			
	Illegitimate	9	6	15	337	17.2	17.2
1950	Legitimate	162	153	315			
	Illegitimate	5	4	9	324	16.7	18.04
1951	Legitimate	152	151	303			
	Illegitimate	2	9	11	314	16.05	17.3
1952	Legitimate	150	124	274			
	Illegitimate	6	6	12	286	14.7	15.8
1953	Legitimate	149	132	281			
	Illegitimate	2	2	4	285	14.7	15.8
1954	Legitimate	127	129	256			
	Illegitimate	5	4	9	265	13.6	13.4

STILL BIRTHS

Year		Males	Females	Total	Grand Total	Rate per 1,000 of population
1949	Legitimate	4	3	7		
	Illegitimate	1	1	2	9	0.46
1950	Legitimate	3	5	8		
	Illegitimate	—	1	1	9	0.46
1951	Legitimate	5	3	8		
	Illegitimate	—	—	—	8	0.40
1952	Legitimate	2	1	3		
	Illegitimate	—	—	—	3	0.15
1953	Legitimate	4	4	8		
	Illegitimate	—	—	—	8	0.41
1954	Legitimate	8	3	11		
	Illegitimate	—	—	—	11	0.57

DEATHS

Year		Males	Females	Total	Rate per 1,000 pop. uncorrected	Rate per 1,000 pop. corrected
1949		120	119	239	12.2	11.8
1950		138	107	245	12.6	12.1
1951		119	115	234	11.9	11.4
1952		125	114	239	12.3	11.8
1953		121	111	232	11.9	11.4
1954		127	98	225	11.6	11.7

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Year	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 births
1949	... 0	—
1950	... 0	—
1951	... 0	—
1952	... 1 (Maternal causes)	3.4
1953	... 0	—
1954	... 0	—

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES

Year			Deaths of infants under 1 yr.	All infants per 1,000 live births	Legitimate infants per 1,000 live legitimate births	Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live illegitimate births
1949	...	...	3	9	6	66
1950	...	...	14	43	41	111
1951	...	...	12	38	33	182
1952	...	...	16	56	51	167
1953	...	...	8	28	28	—
1954	...	...	6	23	23	—

TUBERCULOSIS DEATH RATE

Year			Pulmonary T.B. deaths	Other T.B. deaths	Total T.B. deaths	Pulmonary T.B. death rate per 1,000 pop.	Total T.B. death rate per 1,000 population
1949	...	...	12	3	15	.61	.76
1950	...	...	8	1	9	.41	.46
1951	...	...	2	2	4	.10	.20
1952	...	...	2	1	3	.10	.15
1953	...	...	6	0	6	.31	.31
1954	...	...	2	0	2	.10	.10

TABLE OF COMPARATIVE RATES (uncorrected)

			1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
BIRTH RATE :								
England & Wales	...	...	16.7	15.8	15.5	15.5	15.5	15.2
County of Cumberland	...	...	18.5	17.6	17.1	17.3	16.7	16.4
Rural Districts of Cumb.	...	...	18.2	17.4	17.1	17.0	16.2	15.7
Cockermouth Rural	...	...	17.2	16.7	16.05	14.7	14.7	13.6
DEATH RATE :								
England & Wales	...	...	11.7	11.6	12.5	11.3	11.4	11.3
County of Cumberland	...	...	12.8	12.6	13.2	12.1	11.9	11.9
Rural Districts of Cumb.	...	...	12.4	12.0	13.1	11.6	11.9	12.1
Cockermouth Rural	...	...	12.2	12.6	11.9	12.3	11.9	11.6
INFANTILE MORTALITY :								
England & Wales	...	...	32	30	30	28	27	26
County of Cumberland	...	...	34	35	34	32	27	28
Rural Districts of Cumb.	...	...	28	37	35	34	24	30
Cockermouth Rural	...	...	9	43	38	56	28	23

CAUSES OF DEATH

		Males	Females
1	Tuberculosis, Respiratory ...	2	0
2	" Other ...	0	0
3	Syphilitic disease ...	0	1
4	Diphtheria ...	0	0
5	Whooping Cough ...	0	0
6	Meningo-Coccal infections ...	1	0
7	Acute Poliomyelitis ...	0	0
8	Measles ...	0	0
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	0	0
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	4	2
11	" " lung ...	3	0
12	" " breast ...	0	1
13	" " Uterus ...	0	3
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	7	3
15	Leukæmia, aleukæmia ...	0	0
16	Diabetes ...	0	0
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	17	17
18	Coronary disease, angina ...	28	16
19	Hypertension with heart disease ...	1	1
20	Other heart disease ...	28	32
21	Other circulatory disease ...	2	4
22	Influenza ...	3	1
23	Pneumonia ...	3	3
24	Bronchitis ...	5	2
25	Other diseases of respiratory system ...	3	0
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	1	2
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	0	1
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	3	0
29	Hyperplasia of prostate ...	2	0
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	0	0
31	Congenital malformations ...	0	0
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	9	6
33	Motor vehicle accidents ...	0	1
34	All other accidents ...	5	1
35	Suicide ...	0	1
36	Homicide and operations of war ...	0	0
TOTALS ...		127	98

INFANTILE MORTALITY

Deaths under 1 year showing varying causes and ages.

Cause of Death	under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	1				1					1
Inhalation asphyxia ...						1				1
Broncho-pneumonia ...		1			1	1	1			3
Haemolytic disease of the new born ...	1				1					1
Total	2	1			3	2	1			6

SENILE DEATH RATE

Age at Death	Males	Females	Total
65—70	19	6	25
70—75	17	14	31
75—80	25	18	43
80—85	14	16	30
85—90	9	10	19
90—95	2	2	4
Totals	86	66	152

SENILE DEATH RATE 67.5% of total deaths (1953—68.1)

DEATHS FROM VIOLENCE

Cause		No. of Deaths	% of all causes	Rate per 1,000 of population
Suicide	1953	2	.86	.103
	1954	1	.44	.052
Road traffic accidents	1953	0	—	—
	1954	1	.44	.052
Other violence	1953	7	3.01	.361
	1954	6	2.66	.309
Total	1953	9	3.87	.465
	1954	8	3.56	.413

DEATHS FROM CANCER

Site of Disease					Males	Females
Alimentary :	Stomach	...	...	...	4	2
	Bowel	...	...	...	1	0
	Rectum	...	...	...	1	1
Respiratory :	Lung	...	...	...	1	0
	Bronchus	...	...	...	2	0
Glandular :	Breast	...	...	...	0	1
	Prostate	...	...	...	2	0
Reproductive:	Uterus	...	...	...	0	3
Excretory :	Bladder	...	...	...	1	0
	Kidney	...	...	...	1	0
Other :	Melanoma of axilla	...	...	...	0	1
	Pelvis	...	...	...	0	1
	Retro-peritoneum	...	...	...	1	0
Totals	...	...	...	...	14	9

Age at Death	Males	Females	Total
under 10 years	1	0	1
between 40 and 50	1	0	1
50 and 60	1	4	5
60 and 70	3	2	5
70 and 80	7	3	10
80 and 90	1	0	1
Totals	14	9	23
CANCER DEATH RATE 1.18 per 1,000 population (1953 : 1.39 per 1,000 population)			
Approximately 1 death in 10 was due to Cancer			

Table showing rainfall in inches, in 1954, compiled from observers in various parts of the district

Observation Station	Dean School	At Crosthwaite, Keswick, about 440 yds. from the Cockermouth Rural District boundary	Dale Head Hall, Thirlmere	Blackwood, Braithwaite	Cockermouth within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of Rural District boundary
Observer	A. Casson, Esq.	T. Wilson, Esq.	Alan Atkinson, Esq. Engineer to Manchester Corporation Waterworks	C. Barnes, Esq.	M. M. Dixon, Esq. Surveyor
Diameter of Rain Gauge Funnel	5 inches	5 inches	5 inches	8 inches	5 inches
Height of Gauge above ground	11 inches	1 foot	1 foot	1 foot	1 foot
Height of Gauge above sea level	365 feet	254 feet	620 feet	400 feet	330 feet
1954	ins.	ins.	ins.	ins.	ins.
January ...	5.69	4.58	7.45	5.38	3.29
February ...	4.81	4.77	7.45	5.13	3.19
March ...	4.62	3.68	6.99	4.46	2.51
April ...	2.98	1.16	1.83	1.65	1.10
May ...	4.06	4.05	7.47	4.98	4.43
June ...	4.25	5.26	6.66	6.68	5.01
July ...	2.19	5.47	8.02	7.24	5.02
August ...	9.76	5.87	6.99	6.43	4.79
September ...	5.12	10.40	14.12	12.15	7.26
October ...	6.27	13.58	18.04	16.20	10.25
November ...	4.70	13.22	22.27	14.11	8.21
December ..	6.07	8.46	13.76	10.71	5.71
Totals ...	60.52	80.50	121.05	95.12	60.77
Average prev. 5 years 1949-53 (incl.)	49.04	61.22	98.29	70.82	44.22
		(Av. 52 yrs. 57.83)	(Av. 76 yrs. 83.41)		

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The total number of infectious diseases notified in 1954 was 161 (360 in 1953). Excluding measles and whooping cough the number is 41 (59 in 1953).

There were no cases of Acute Poliomyelitis, Enteric Fever, Food Poisoning or Puerperal Pyrexia, whilst new notifications of Tuberculosis fell from 23 in 1953 to 12 in 1954.

Information on the distribution of infectious diseases by age, location and time of year are given in tabular form, and require little comment.

As in previous years, the West Cumberland Joint Hospital Board provided accommodation for infectious cases at Galemire Hospital, Cleator Moor, and at the Infectious Disease Block of the Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle. Little use, however, had to be made of these facilities.

During 1954 no public elementary school in the Cockermouth Rural District was closed on account of infectious disease.

While the tables show the distribution of new Tuberculosis cases, it may be of interest to give the position at the end of 1954.

CASES ON THE TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

			Males	Females	Totals
Pulmonary	...	...	45	73	118
Non-pulmonary	...	...	4	7	11
			—	—	—
Totals	...	...	49	80	129
			—	—	—

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Figures, kindly supplied by the Divisional Medical Office, are given in tabular form showing the number of Diphtheria Immunisations carried out, and the position at the end of 1954.

No case of Diphtheria was notified during the year, and no deaths are recorded from the disease. The following table shows the position in each year since 1920.

Year			Cases notified	Deaths	Year			Cases notified	Deaths
1920	...	...	46	8	1939	...	...	2	0
1921	...	...	28	4	1940	...	...	3	0
1922	...	...	14	1	1941	(Immunisation Commenced)		4	1
1923	...	...	31	2	1942			2	0
1924	...	...	21	0	1943	...	...	3	0
1925	...	...	7	1	1944	...	...	7	1
1926	...	...	45	2	1945	...	...	7	0
1927	...	...	23	0	1946	...	...	3	0
1928	...	...	2	0	1947	...	...	2	0
1929	...	...	2	0	1948	...	...	0	0
1930	...	...	20	1	1949	...	...	0	0
1931	...	...	7	1	1950	...	...	0	0
1932	...	...	6	0	1951	...	...	1 (not confirmed)	0
1933	...	...	4	1					
1934	...	...	3	0	1952	...	...	0	0
1935	...	...	26	4	1953	...	...	0	0
1936	...	...	7	0	1954	...	...	0	0
1937	...	...	12	1					
1938	...	...	0	0					

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATION, 1954

	Total Cases	Males	Females	Cases per 1,000 pop.	Cases admitted to hosp.	Deaths of cases	Monthly incident of disease											
							Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Scarlet Fever ...	18	4	14	.93	1		2	1	1	1	1	3	6	5	1			
Whooping Cough ...	29	17	12	1.49								13	5		1			4
Acute { Paralytic.. Non-Paralytic.																		
Poliomyelitis { Paralytic.																		
Measles ...	91	45	46	4.68			51	18	4	2		9	3	2	1	1		
Diphtheria ...																		
Acute Pneumonia ...	10	5	5	.52	4	1	4	1	1	1				1	1		1	
Dysentery ...																		
Smallpox ...																		
Acute { Infective... Post-Encephalitis { infectious																		
Enteric or Typhoid Fever																		
Paratyphoid Fever ...																		
Erysipelas ...	1	1		.05					1									
Meningococcal infection...																		
Food poisoning...																		
Puerperal pyrexia ...																		
Ophthalmia neonatorum	8	4	4	.42	8			3		1				1	2	1		
Tuberculosis { Respiratory Meninges & C.N.S.... Otherforms	4	2	2	.21	4		1					1			1		1	
Totals...	161	78	83	.83	17	1	58	23	8	5	3	26	14	9	4	4	1	6

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS, 1954

	Age distribution											Distribution by Parishes																														
	Total Cases	Under 1 year	1—2 years	3—4 years	5—9 years	10—14 years	15—24 years	25—44 years	45—64 years	Over 65 years	Above Derwent	Allerby &c.	Bassenthwaite	Bewaldeth	Blinderake	Bothel &c.	Bridekirk	Broughton	Broughton Moor	Blindbothel	Borrowdale	Brigham	Buttermere	Carnerton	Clifton, Gt.	Clifton, Lt.	Crosscanonby	Dearham	Dean	Embleton	Gilerux	Greysouthen	Lorton	Loweswater	Rappcastle	Plumbland	Seaton	St. Johns	Setmuthby	Underskiddaw	Winstables	Wythop
Scarlet Fever ...	18		1	1	1	3	2					1				1			2						12	1										1		1				1
Whooping Cough ...	29	3	7	6	12	1												1	1						2		1	5							117							
Acute Paralytic ...																																										
Poliomyelitis { Non Paralytic...																																										
Measles ...	91		19	31	39	1	1	1				1	1												4	9	2	10	7	12		3	1				3	31	1			4
Diphtheria ...																																										
Acute Pneumonia ...	10	1	1	1		2	3	1	1							1	1								2						1		1			3	1					
Dysentery ...																																										
Smallpox ...																																										
Acute Infective... {																																										
Encephalitis { Post-infectious																																										
Enteric or Typhoid Fever																																										
Erysipelas ...	1							1																																		
Meningococcal infection...																																										
Food poisoning ...																																										
Puerperal pyrexia ...																																										
Ophthalmia neonatorum																																										
Respiratory { Meninges & C.N.S....	8			4	3	1											1	1									2	1		1							1	1				
Other forms	4					2	2				1															1											1					
Totals ...	161	4	28	39	64	7	8	8	1	2	1	2	1			2	2	1	3					4	28	4	11	13	12		1	3	1	3		8	52	2	1			6

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR 1954

To the Chairman and Members of the
Cockermouth Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to submit to you my first Annual Report on the work of the Public Health Department during 1954.

During the year a good deal of work has been done in the wide variety of subjects covered by this Department, and the following pages set out in some detail the extent of the work undertaken. I trust that it will prove of interest to the members of the Council.

The Council's Engineering Staff works very closely with this Department and I would like to express my appreciation of the co-operation of Mr. A. E. Simpson, and of his successor, Mr. E. Watson, in all matters where joint consideration or action was taken.

I should also like to express my thanks for the courtesy and help given by the Council, and for the assistance and friendly attitude of the Staff as a whole, and particularly of my own Department.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ROWLAND E. DUNN,
Senior Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING

1. NEW BUILDING

The Council has continued to employ the services of the North Eastern Housing Association in the construction of new dwellings on their behalf, while retaining the exclusive right to arrange all lettings, transfers and nominations to individual houses.

They have, however, decided that they themselves shall develop a site at Broughton Moor for some 68 houses, the first 30 of which are to be commenced in 1955. This is a break with post-war practice and the Council's staff are keenly desirous of seeing that the houses constructed are of good quality while capable of being let at a reasonable rental.

Another noteworthy decision was that which authorised negotiation for the purchase of a site at Crosby which, after development by way of roads, sewers, water mains and electricity was to be sold in plots for private building.

It is expected that this scheme will be commencing operation towards the end of 1955.

While Council house building has not been without those hitches so difficult to 'pin down', the number of new houses becoming available for letting has been reasonably satisfactory.

The following table shows the number of houses completed by the North Eastern Housing Association during the year:

Month	Seaton	Lt. Clifton	Gt. Clifton	Braithwaite	Totals
January	4				4
February					—
March	4	2	6		12
April	2		2		4
May	2		7		9
June	2		8		10
July	2			4	6
August	1		14		15
September	4		8	2	14
October				8	8
November					—
December					—
	21	2	45	14	82

The following table shows the houses privately built during the year:

Above Derwent	...	...	...	...	...	7	
Bassenthwaite	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Bridekirk	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Borrowdale	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Gt. Clifton	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Crosscanonby	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Dearham	...	...	...	...	...	3	
Lorton	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Papcastle	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Seaton	...	...	...	...	...	11	
Underskiddaw	...	...	...	...	...	1	
						30	30

In addition the following were completed by other Authorities:

Bothel (by County Council — Nurse's house)	...	1	
St. Johns (Manchester Corporation)		4	
		5	5
			35
			35
TOTAL HOUSES BUILT DURING THE YEAR			117

The following tables show the position as at 31st December 1954:

TABLE I
HOUSES BUILT AND OWNED BY THE COUNCIL:

Pre-war :							
Seaton (Lowca Lane)	...	...	...	...	12		
Seaton (Derwent Avenue)	...	...	...	...	28		
Great Clifton (Gatehead)	...	...	...	...	36		
Great Clifton (The Gavels)	...	...	...	...	12		
Belle Vue	...	...	...	...	8		
Prospect	...	...	...	...	12		
Broughton (Coldghyll Av.)	...	...	...	...	12		
Braithwaite	...	...	...	...	4		
					Total	124	
Post-war :							
Seaton (Leslie's Estate)	...	...	...	...	34	34	
Total houses built and owned by the Council						158	158

TABLE II

HOUSES BUILT AND OWNED BY THE N.E.H.A.

Pre-war and wartime :

Dearham (Croft Crescent)	...	...	...	40	
Braithwaite	...	...	...	6	
Crosby (agricultural)	...	...	...	2	
Seaton (Barncroft Avenue)	...	...	...	70	
Broughton (Grange Avenue)	...	...	...	20	
Great Clifton (The Gavels)	...	...	...	36	
Great Clifton (Bowflatts)	...	...	...	70	
Broughton Moor (Lucock Avenue)	...	...	...	32	
Plumbland (agricultural)	...	...	...	2	
Pardshaw (agricultural)	...	...	...	2	
			Total		280

Post-war :

Crosby (Suncroft)	...	...	...	...	30	
Dearham (Towncroft)	...	...	...	...	78	
Dearham (Row Brow)	...	...	...	...	6	
Seaton (Hunters Drive Area)	...	...	...	...	187	
Bothel	...	...	...	...	12	
Bassenthwaite	...	...	...	...	14	
Brigham	...	...	...	...	52	
Broughton (Ghyllbank)	...	...	...	...	96	
Little Clifton (Valley View)	...	...	...	...	32	
Little Clifton (The Garth)	...	...	...	...	2	
Oughterside	...	...	...	...	4	
Applethwaite	...	...	...	...	4	
Crosscanonby	...	...	...	...	2	
Camerton	...	...	...	...	6	
Bridekirk	...	...	...	...	2	
Great Clifton (Stoneycroft)	...	...	...	...	44	
Great Clifton (Clifton Lodge)	...	...	...	...	45	
Broughton Moor (Moorfields)	...	...	...	...	32	
Deanscales	...	...	...	...	6	
Plumbland (The Muslins)	...	...	...	...	20	
Blindcrake	...	...	...	...	4	
Allerby	...	...	...	...	2	
Gilcrux	...	...	...	...	2	
Greysouthen	...	...	...	...	12	
Rosthwaite	...	...	...	...	12	
Winscales	...	...	...	...	2	
Lorton	...	...	...	...	4	
Braithwaite	...	...	...	...	14	
			Total			726

Total houses built and owned by N.E.H.A.	...	1006	1006
--	-----	------	------

Total houses belonging to N.E.H.A. or council			1164
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TABLE III

TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSES BUILT PRIVATELY POST-WAR : 167

TABLE IV

HOUSES BUILT IN EACH POST-WAR YEAR :

Year		Private	Municipal
1946	...	17	30
1947	...	24	108
1948	...	16	154
1949	...	11	88
1950	...	5	110
1951	...	20	54
1952	...	20	64
1953	...	19	70
1954	...	35	82
Totals	...	167	760
Averages (1946-1954)		18	85

TABLE V

HOUSES IN COURSE OF ERECTION :

Great Clifton	...	68
Camerton	...	6
Private	...	19
		93

Despite the higher rentals being charged for houses recently constructed (approximately 23/- exclusive of rates) there has been little recession in the number of new applications being received.

It is noticeable, however, that a marked increase has occurred in the number of applications for transfer, whereby the older and lower rented houses have been receiving, through transfer, tenants less able to pay inflated rents.

The House Letting Committee has given such applications the most sympathetic consideration in every case.

2. IMPROVEMENTS TO DWELLINGS

Interest in the grant and provisions of the Housing Act, 1949, has heightened considerably and the Sanitary Inspectors made 33 visits to advise property owners on the application of the Act, quite apart from the number who sought similar advice at the Council offices.

The following table shows the number of grants approved and completed to the end of 1954:

YEAR	APPROVED		COMPLETED	
	Schemes	Houses Involved	Schemes	Houses Involved
1950	...	2	—	—
1951	...	5	2	2
1952	...	6	8	8
1953	...	8	5	5
1954	...	17	8	14
	38	47	23	29

The Council's own Improvement Scheme at Furnace Row, Distington, involving the conversion of 22 terrace bungalows into 11 modernised bungalows, has made slow progress, principally because of the necessity of having to complete individual houses and move sitting tenants before further houses are available to the builders.

At the end of the year the first three houses had been completed and occupied although no electricity had been made available to connect to the internal wiring.

3. SLUM CLEARANCE

During 1954, thirty-two houses were represented under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, as being unfit and incapable of being rendered fit at reasonable cost.

Undertakings were accepted by the Council involving two houses being converted to one and re-conditioned, and three houses being put to agricultural use. The remainder were subject to demolition orders.

The Council accepted that they had a moral obligation to rehouse the tenants and had either rehoused the majority, or had planned to rehouse them by the end of the year.

In pursuance of demolition orders made in previous years, 7 houses were demolished during 1954. Of these, 4 were the subject of action by the Council in default of the owners. Much remains to be done in this field in order to improve the looks of several of our villages where derelict or partially demolished properties are a continued eyesore, but despite continued pressure on defaulting owners, progress has admittedly been slow.

4. HOUSING REPAIRS & RENTS ACT, 1954

The coming into operation of the above Act was expected to bring a deal of additional work to the Health Department, but in fact, by the end of 1954, only two applications had been made for certificates of disrepair, and only a handful of enquiries had been made by owners desirous of increasing rents.

Both applications for disrepair certificates were granted.

Housing Appendix

STATISTICS

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	812
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	968
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 and 1932 (Brought up to date)	0
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	0
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	32
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	112

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices:—

	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	52
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	0
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By owners	0
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	0
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	5
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By owners	1
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	0
(c)	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	25
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	9
(d)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0

WATER SUPPLY

As will be seen from the following table, this District is, in the main, adequately supplied with water from public piped supplies and the bulk of the remaining properties are so located as to be provided, by means of springs or mountain streams, with private piped supplies.

Of the parishes where the water supply is derived from public mains, it is felt that Dearham is the worst served, so much so, that the Council has been prevented from filling the urgent need for housing accommodation there on that account. The remedy does not lie directly in the Council's hands, as Dearham is in the supply area of the Maryport U.D.C. As they themselves are much concerned at the inadequacy of their water supply and are seeking alleviation, it is hoped that they will shortly be able to resolve their problems, and in so doing benefit the Dearham community.

There are no properties in the Rural District which are supplied by standpipes provided by the local authority (Section 128, Public Health Act, 1936).

HOUSES AND POPULATION SUPPLIED FROM PUBLIC MAINS:

Parish	Houses	Popula- tion	Parish	Houses	Popula- tion
Above Derwent ...	341	1147	Crosscanonby ...	258	833
Allerby & Oughterside	175	619	Dearham ...	560	1822
Bassenthwaite ...	82	253	Dean ...	212	682
Bewaldeth ...	6	20	Embleton ...	77	294
Blindcrake ...	92	343	Gilcrux ...	101	333
Bothel ...	87	270	Greysouthen ...	141	468
Bridekirk ...	128	723	Lorton ...	70	164
Broughton ...	472	1326	Loweswater ...	8	25
Broughton Moor ...	248	937	Papcastle ...	84	259
Blindbothel ...	12	30	Plumbland ...	156	511
Borrowdale ...	66	233	Seaton ...	878	2559
Brigham ...	239	710	St. Johns ...	1	4
Buttermere ...	—	—	Setmurthy ...	28	110
Camerton ...	60	204	Underskiddaw ...	40	136
Clifton, Great ...	452	1425	Winscales ...	61	224
Clifton, Little ...	137	436	Wythop ...	9	34
				5281	17146

IMPROVEMENTS AND EXTENSIONS:

During the year the Engineering Department have carried out the following works:

Hause Ghyll Supply:

The intake pool at Hause Ghyll has been concreted and a new reservoir of 36,000 gallons capacity constructed at the intake works to provide additional storage during the cleansing of the tanks and filters.

The extension of the water main from Tallantire Hill to Broughton Moor to augment the Crummock supply to Broughton Moor and Seaton was started, and by the end of the year 1700 lineal yards of 5" main had been laid.

Housing Site Extensions:

179 lineal yards of 3" and 202 lineal yards of 2" Everite pipes were laid at Longcroft Housing Site, Braithwaite.

595 lineal yards of 3" Everite pipes were laid in the extension of the 3" main to the new housing site at Great Clifton from Bowflatts.

Mains scraping:

320 lineal yards of 4" main were scraped between the trunk main and Clifton Hall.

SAMPLES OF WATER:

During the year the following samples were taken:

- (3.6.54) Sample taken at the proposed source of the proposed extension to Grange in Borrowdale public supply.
The result was chemically satisfactory, but bacteriologically suspicious of contamination.
- (3.6.54) Sample taken at spring supplying Grange in Borrowdale.
The result was chemically satisfactory, but bacteriologically unsatisfactory.
- (7.7.54) Sample taken at the proposed source of the proposed extension to Grange in Borrowdale public supply.
The result stated that the water was highly unsatisfactory bacteriologically.
- (7.7.54) Sample taken from the collecting chamber at the source of Grange in Borrowdale public supply.
The water was found to be of fairly satisfactory bacteriological purity.

As soon as the adverse results of the water samples at the present Grange in Borrowdale supply were known, an emergency chlorination plant was installed to safeguard the supply.

- (2.11.54) Sample taken at the private supply to Low Mire, Nr. Allonby.
The result was unsatisfactory, and the owner is now arranging to obtain a supply from the Wigton Rural District public main.

In addition to the above samples, Workington Corporation took seven samples of the water from the Crummock Main, all of which were highly satisfactory.

I am obliged to the Workington Public Health Department for their courtesy in supplying copies of their analyses during the year.

FOOD

1. MEAT

As from the 2nd July centralised slaughtering by the Ministry of Food ceased and the Council was asked to licence such number of privately owned slaughterhouses as would cater for the needs of the butchers in their district.

After meetings had been convened with butchers and after discussion with adjacent local authorities, the Council decided that adequate centralised slaughtering premises were not available and that private slaughterhouses would need to be brought into operation. After inspection and improvement 10 such premises were licensed. Routine meat inspection was commenced and despite the hurried circumstances of the arrangements, few 'teething troubles' were experienced.

The following table shows the number of carcasses inspected between July and December and it is believed that, apart from a few casual killings of sheep, all animals killed for food have been inspected by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors.

				Bullocks	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Total number killed	...	...	...	75	318	5	593	435
a. All diseases except tuberculosis								
(i) Whole carcase condemned				—	—	—	—	1
(ii) Part carcasses or organs condemned				9	67	—	73	1
(iii) Percentage affected with diseases other than T.B.				12.0%	21.0%	—	12.3%	.5%
b. Tuberculosis only								
(i) Whole carcase condemned				—	2	—	—	—
(ii) Part carcasses or organs condemned				1	20	—	—	2
(iii) Percentage affected with T.B.				1.3%	6.9%	—	—	.5%

A total of 1,426 carcasses inspected during the six months.

Tribute must also be paid to the butchers in the district, who have co-operated well with the Department.

By arrangement with the Maryport Urban Council and the Cockermouth Urban Council assistance is given, when required, in the work of meat inspection at their slaughterhouses.

2. MILK

Sampling of ungraded milk for detection of the presence of Tubercle Bacilli has continued to be carried out under delegation from the County Council, and it is most satisfactory to note that of 195 samples taken for this purpose and submitted to the Pathological Laboratory, none were found to be affected.

Following construction of one new dairy the Council registered the premises and issued a licence to the dealer authorising the use of Special Designations (Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested) in relation to milk purchased by him as such.

A total of 21 dealers' licences are at present in operation in the district.

3. ICE CREAM

30 premises are registered under the Food & Drugs Act for the storage and sale of ice cream. In every case the ice cream is purchased from manufacturers outside the district and is sold in this district in pre-wrapped packages.

No ice cream is manufactured in the district.

13 inspections have been made of registered premises during 1954.

4. OTHER FOODS

No occasion has arisen necessitating the examination of other foods for unfitness. This is rather peculiar insofar as canned goods are concerned, as traders must undoubtedly be suffering some losses through 'blown,' punctured or damaged cans : losses which cannot normally be recovered without a formal certificate of condemnation from a local authority.

5. BAKEHOUSES

There are three registered bakehouses in the district and 19 inspections have been made of them during the year. All are well appointed premises wherein a suitable standard of cleanliness and hygiene is observed.

SEWERS AND DRAINS

With a few notable exceptions, the District is well provided with public sewers and disposal works and where such sewers have been provided owners have in the main readily taken advantage of the facilities by connecting their drainage thereto.

Only two villages of more than 40 houses remain to be catered for in this respect and for the village of Branthwaite the Council's Engineer has prepared detailed plans and estimates for sewerage and sewage disposal. These have been submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government during 1954 and it is hoped that they will receive sympathetic and favourable consideration.

At the more scattered village of Thornthwaite the position is less satisfactory, and it is hoped to be able to report on this in 1955 and seek the Council's authority for re-submitting the Engineer's proposals to the Ministry.

During 1954 the following works were carried out by the Council's Engineering Department :—

New sewage disposal works and 176 lin. yds. of 6in. sewer provided for the conversion of 22 houses to 11 at Furnace Row, Winscales.

145 lin. yds. of 6in. sewer extended to 7 new building sites at Seaton.

35 lin. yds. of 6in. sewer extended at Broughton Moor.

43 lin. yds. of 6in. sewer extended at Craika Road, Dearham.

REFUSE COLLECTION

The total cost for this service for the year was £4,160/14/3 and covered approximately 5,495 houses, which gives a figure of approximately 15/2 per house per annum or 3½d. per week.

In the table below showing the number of houses in each parish from which refuse is collected, those collected by the Council's vehicle and direct labour are shown as 'D.L.', and those by a contractor as 'C'.

PARISH					Approx. No. of houses	
Allerby and Oughterside	...	...	...	...	176	C
Above Derwent	...	...	...	...	383	C
Blindbothel	...	...	...	...	22	DL
Borrowdale	...	...	...	...	136	C
Bassenthwaite	...	...	...	...	115	DL
Bridekirk	...	...	...	...	116	DL
Brigham	...	...	...	...	239	C
Broughton	...	...	...	...	427	C
Broughton Moor	...	...	...	...	200	DL
Blindcrake	...	...	...	...	60	DL
Bothel and Threapland	...	...	...	...	89	C
Buttermere	...	...	...	...	41	DL
Crosscanonby	...	...	...	...	259	C
Camerton	...	...	...	...	60	DL
Dearham	...	...	...	...	570	C
Dean	...	...	...	...	221	DL
Embleton	...	...	...	...	47	C
Gilcrux	...	...	...	...	82	C
Greysouthen	...	...	...	...	138	DL
Clifton Gt.	...	...	...	...	457	C
Clifton Lt.	...	...	...	...	137	C
Lorton	...	...	...	...	81	DL
Loweswater	...	...	...	...	48	DL
Papcastle	...	...	...	...	79	DL
Plumbland	...	...	...	...	140	C
St. Johns in the Vale	...	...	...	...	111	C
Seaton	...	...	...	...	881	DL
Setmurthy	...	...	...	...	21	C
Underskiddaw	...	...	...	...	101	C
Winscales	...	...	...	...	42	C
Wythop	...	...	...	...	16	C
					5495	

CONTROL OF PESTS

Action with regard to pests has been limited to rodent control in accordance with the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Infestations at Council refuse tips and sewage disposal works have been promptly dealt with and all private complaints have been investigated and where necessary remedial action taken. It is true to say that considerable time and effort have often been wasted in trying to trace the seat of infestation, only to find that the complaint was based on the observance of a single rat making infrequent visitations. It is important, however, that even the flimsiest of evidence shall be investigated and that no attempt be made to belittle a report and so deter the making of further complaints.

It has not been found possible to carry out an agricultural survey as envisaged by the Act and much reliance has had to be placed on the Pests Department of the Cumberland Agricultural Executive Committee.

It is understood that the Agricultural Committee had upward of seventy farms under contract for treatment of rats during 1954. It is known that sales to farmers of preparations containing warfarin are steadily increasing and if such bait is laid conscientiously and according to instructions it is felt that much good will be done by the farmers themselves.

FACTORIES

70 factories are formally entered in the Register and of these 41 are supplied with power-driven machinery. In these, only Section 7 of the Factories Act, 1937, relating to sanitary conveniences is enforceable by the District Council.

The following is a summary of the various trades or processes being carried out:

					Powered	Non-powered
Joinery and Sawmilling	...	...	...	...	15	12
Motor Vehicle Repairs	...	...	...	...	10	2
Quarrying	...	...	...	...	8	4
Blacksmithing	...	...	...	...	1	4
Cobbling and Shoemaking	...	...	...	...	2	3
Baking	...	...	...	...	—	3
Dressmaking	...	...	...	...	—	1
Heavy Engineering	...	...	...	...	1	—
Polishing	...	...	...	...	1	—
Brickworks	...	...	...	...	1	—
Laundry	...	...	...	...	1	—
Grass Drying	...	...	...	...	1	—

During 1954, 51 visits were made to factory premises, but in no case did the necessity arise for the service of a formal notice. Indeed, the only difficulty experienced was at a factory engaged in the polishing of spindles where strong local agitation was made about noise of machinery and emission of dust. It was considered that the emission of noise was not within the powers of the Council to effect a remedy, but the owners were persuaded to instal a duct and container into which exhaust fans discharged the dust from polishing compounds and this proved to be a reasonable solution to the dust problem.

The following table shows the position under the Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948, in this district at the end of 1954:

	No. on register	Inspec- tions	Written notices	Defects found	Defects remedied
(i) Factories in which Sects. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by the local authority	29	21	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the local authority	41	30	2	2	2
(iii) Other premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the local authority	5	11	1	1	1
TOTALS	75	62	3	3	3

(Note: Section 1 refers to cleanliness, 2 to overcrowding, 3 to temperature, 4 to ventilation, 6 to drainage of floors, 7 to sanitary conveniences)

CAMPING

The inclement weather which prevailed almost throughout the year undoubtedly proved a deterrent to camping and no difficulties were experienced. It must be accepted, however, that the caravan is proving increasingly popular for holiday use and is likely to continue so. The limitations of the provisions in the Public Health Act relating to moveable dwellings are known as well by experienced caravanners as they are by local authorities and such persons can no longer be simply 'pushed around'.

It would seem therefore that the establishment of organised sites in inconspicuous locations might solve the problem of indiscriminate camping up to a point. Sealing up the loopholes in the legal position would strengthen the control that could be exercised by local authorities.

11 licensed sites are operated in this district and licences for individual caravans are operative in 6 cases.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

The attention of the Department was drawn to only one case of a person incapable of giving herself proper care and attention (Section 47 of the Act). In this case it was found possible to make local arrangements for provision of such attention while the case was kept under review by the Medical Officer of Health. No call was made therefore on the County Council accommodation provided under Part 3 of this Act.

The Council undertook the burial (in accordance with their responsibility under Section 50 of the Act) of a newly born baby found dead and abandoned and whose parents were at the time untraced. The parentage was subsequently proved by the police and the parents did in fact reimburse the Council to the extent of their financial outlay.

SUMMARY OF VISITS OF INSPECTION DURING 1954

Burials	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Camping Sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Cesspools, Sewage Tanks	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Closets : Water	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Dairies, Milkshops, Milkstores	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dangerous Structures	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Drains inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Dykes and Watercourses	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Factories : sanitary conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
temp., ventilation, drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Flooding	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Food & Drugs Act :							
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Butchers Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Ice-cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Restaurant kitchens	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Other food shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	392
Food inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Meat inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	323
Houses inspected :							
Defects, Health & Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	217
For Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Re-inspections :							
Health & Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	152
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Houses inspected for recording under Housing (Con-							
solidation) Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	562
Housing Allocations	...	...	...	...	...	...	422
Infectious Disease investigations	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Re-inspections, Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Meetings and Interviews	...	...	...	...	...	...	158
Misc. Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	144
Inspections re Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Re-inspections re Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pests Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	145
Refuse Tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Samples : Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	94
Water	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Sewage Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Shops Act, 1934	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Temporary Dwellings and Caravans	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	25



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